

November 30, 1963

1:30 p.m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND ROBERT ANDERSON
(t)

LBJ How are you?

RA: Fine, Mr. President, how are you sir?

LBJ I'm just doing good. I had a good week and thanks to you... I want to tell you how thankful I am for your friendship and I'm sitting here talking to a friend of yours... Mr. Frank Ikard. Do you know him?

RA Oh, bless his heart... just a moment, may I go to another telephone... just a minute...

LBJ You betcha....

RA Hello.. sir..

LBJ Yes, we were just talking.. I've asked him what we could do about the tax bill ..they tell me they're going to finish the hearings on the 6th... he doesn't even want to testify, but he thinks if he doesn't they'll say he's afraid to.. and a lot of them, I think, feel the same way.. don't need to testify but they're listed. I was just hoping that they could try to mark it up as quickly as they could after the 6th and then get it reported out where I could get the Senate to do something about it before they go home... at least report it to the Senate

RA Well, I've got a ball in for Harry. I've had it in now for about 18 hours.. or so.. well, ever since you made your talk.. I thought that I ought to let that come first and then I ought to talk to him. Here's what I'm going to say to him ..

INTERRUPTION IN CONVERSATION

if there was any possible way.. that you could come out of this thing with 99.8...

LBJ Yes, I know that. I've told them all that.. dozen times. I got the Joint Chiefs in yesterday.. told them.. I wanted men promoted on the basis.. how frugal they were.. how thrifty they were.. how prudent they were.. how they could save money and not how they could spend it and don't give me a bunch of talk about they've reached the ultimate there because I've been in the investigating committee too many years.. to know it.. and to go back and tell them to ... this is the watchword.. I was telling McNamara later in the afternoon that he had to review it again see what he could do with his and see if he couldn't get a few more hundred million out of it.. and.. and if he erred there on the low side.. of course he could come back later... if he had to.. and so forth. So I've wrapped it as strong as I know and I've the Budget working on the gimmick.. told you about that gimmick didn't I... that side draft instead of these grand ..

RA Yes you did.. I know that.

LBJ They say every Mayor and every Governor will give me hell about it.. but I guess it is worth it to have that much lower Budget, isn't it?

RA Yes. As a matter of fact it isn't a gimmick..if you don't do it the way everybody has been doing it for a thousand years, it is a gimmick.

LBJ Yes, but they say this is a legitimate one and no reason why they ought to get the credit with the banking fraternity..and, well..I'm going to try this.. we've got everything in the world though from the Kennedy Memorial..now.. they called up there ..some of the folks did and went around me..I told them I'd like to check it out on the Hill before we turn up a proposal and the first thing I knew they got Jim Wright introducing it..and saying that it is a White House measure.

RA Well, this is not treating you fairly.

LBJ No. No it is not. And \$25 million when I'm hollering thrift and economy you see.

RA That is right. Not treating you fairly..sure isn't.

LBJ But I guess we'll do it all right. Howard Smith won't even give us a hearing on civil rights. He won't do one damned thing.

RA Well, I know the people that are closest to Howard..and I'll be talking to them ..

LBJ Well, he won't even give us a hearing..now, that..that..whenever you get to that damned point where you won't hear a man..and his idea of course is that he'll run it over till January...and in January they'll be late coming back.. and he'll piddle along..get into February and then maybe they won't get it out until March..and then in March the Senate will be able to filibuster it until it goes home and it will be..there will be nothing done. Now this country is not in any condition to take that kind of stuff..and it is going to hurt us.. it is going to hurt our section and it is going to hurt our people and is going to hurt the conservatives. I was talking yesterday..Roy Wilkins said now we are willing to do anything ..we don't have to have every "i" and every "t" but he said John Kennedy was killed in Dallas and we had some people killed in Mississippi...and there's all this stuff going on and we've been talking about this for 100 years..looks like about time we stopped talking ..and I just think that we're going to have them out in the streets again if we don't make some little progress. Yes, but Howard has just gone to his farm and tells the Speaker I won't even give you a hearing on it.

RA Well, let me talk to him...

LBJ We're going to have..we're going to have..I think it would be mistake..if he thought you were talking to me, though..cause he's a wily old man..

RA Oh, I'll never have been talking to you...

LBJ But what we're going to do is, I'm afraid he's going to get it petitioned out..

LBJ
Contd

And I'm going to lay it on the line, though, if I get to. . say to the Republicans. . now you're either for civil rights or you're not. . you're either the party of Lincoln or you ain't. . and this, by God, put up or shut up. This is it. If you are you sign the petition to consider it. If you're not, why just get over there by God with Jim Eastland and Howard Smith and stay and I believe that we can dramatize it enough that we can wreck them.

RA Well, I think you can too.

LBJ But I don't want to do that way. I don't think you ought to do that way. I don't feel that way about the Congress. . but when a man won't even give you a hearing. . that is just getting too damned rough. It has been heard, you know, since May in the Judiciary Committee. . now it comes to Rules Committee and all he's got to do. . report rule. . but he won't even give you a hearing on reporting rule. . says "hell, no" go eat cake. . god damn it. . don't mess with me until next year.

RA Well, that's worse than intolerance. . . and particularly when he's supposed to owe some allegiance to the party he belongs to. .

LBJ Well, good luck to you. Got a pretty day up there?

RA No sir. It is snowing. . and. .

LBJ We've got sunshine here ..

RA It is a bad day. . I'll be calling and I'll be talking and then one day next week .. I'm going to give you a call and come down and give you some ideas I've been thinking about. . . . want to help you.

LBJ Wonderful. . wonderful. . sure appreciate it. .

RA See you my friend. Bye

LBJ Bye